ASIAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS
Volume 2013, Article ID amp0041, 7 pages
ISSN 2308-3131
http://scienceasia.asia

AN ELEMENTARY PROOF OF LEGENDRE'S CONJECTURE

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ABSTRACT. We prove the Legendre's conjecture: given an integer, $n > 0$, there is always one prime, p, such that $n^2 < p < (n+1)^2$, using the prime-counting function and the Bertrand's Postulate.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legendre's conjecture, named after Adrien-Marie Legendre (1752-1833), asserts that: There is always one prime number between a square number and the next. Algebraically speaking, given an integer, $n > 0$, there is always one prime, p, such that $n^2 < p < (n+1)^2$. Put yet another way, $\pi((n+1)^2) - \pi(n^2) > 0$, where $\pi(x)$ is the prime-counting function.

This conjecture was considered unproved when it was listed in Landau's problems, in 1912.

Chen Jingrun (1933-1996) proved a slightly weaker version of the conjecture: there is either a prime $n^2 < p < (n+1)^2$ or a semiprime $n^2 < pq < (n+1)^2$, where q is one prime unequal to p.

2. LEMMAS AND THEOREMS

LEMMA 1. (Bertrand's Postulate, actually a Theorem) *For any integer $n > 3$, there always exists, at least, one prime number, p, with $n < p < 2n - 2$.*

A weaker, but more elegant formulation is:

LEMMA 2. (Weak Bertrand's Postulate) *For every $n > 1$ there is always, at least, one prime number, p, such that $n < p < 2n$.*

THEOREM 1. *For $n \geq 5$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, then*

$$(1)\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1},$$

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 11A41, 11N05
Keywords: Legendre's conjecture, Bertrand's Postulate

$$(2)\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k} + \frac{2\pi}{k}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)},$$

$$(3)\pi(n) = 2 - \sum_{k=5}^{n} \csc\left(\frac{\pi}{k}\right) \sin\left[\frac{\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] \cos\left\{\frac{\pi[\Gamma(k)+1]}{k}\right\},$$

$$(4)\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}\right)\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)}.$$

Proof. Part 1. In [1, pp. 427], H. Laurent noted that

$$(5) \qquad f(z) = \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(z)}{z}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{z}} - 1} = \begin{cases} 0, if\ z\ is\ composite \\ 1, if\ z\ is\ prime \end{cases},$$

forz ≥ 5 and $z \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Observe that

$$f(z) = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{z}} \frac{\cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - 1}{1 - e^{\frac{2\pi i}{z}}}$$

$$= e^{\frac{2\pi i}{z}} \frac{\cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - 1}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= -\left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)\right] \frac{1 - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= -\frac{\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)} - \left\{\frac{i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}\right\}$$

$$= -\frac{\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)} - \frac{i\left\{\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)\right\}}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= -\frac{\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right] + i\left\{\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]\right\}}{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}.$$

Using the identity

$$\frac{a+bi}{c-di} = \frac{ac-bd}{c^2+d^2} + i\frac{bc+ad}{c^2+d^2},$$

we find the following real part

$$(6) \qquad \Re[f(z)] = \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$(7) \qquad = -\csc\left(\frac{\pi}{z}\right)\sin\left[\frac{\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right]\cos\left\{\frac{\pi[\Gamma(z)+1]}{z}\right\}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0, if\ z\ is\ composite \\ 1, if\ z\ is\ prime \end{cases},$$

forz ≥ 5 and $z \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

The imaginary part is the following

$$(8) \qquad \Im[f(z)] = -\frac{\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right] - \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}.$$

From (6) and (8), it follows that

$$(9)\ f(z) = \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$+ i\frac{\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] - \sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) + i\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right] - i\sin\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(z)}{z} + \frac{2\pi}{z}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{z}} - e^{-\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(z)}{z}} + e^{-\left[\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(z)}{z}+\frac{2\pi i}{z}\right]}}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{-1\left(e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{z}} - 1\right) + e^{-\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(z)}{z}}\left(e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{z}} - 1\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(z)}{z}}\right)\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{z}}\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{z}\right)} = \begin{cases} 0, if\ z\ is\ composite \\ 1, if\ z\ is\ prime \end{cases},$$

for$z \geq 5$ and $z \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

Part 2. The prime counting function is the function counting the number of prime numbers less than or equal to some real number x. It is denoted by $\pi(x)$.From above definition, we have

$$\pi(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} 1.$$

With the restriction for the positive integers and greater than or equal to five, it follows that

$$\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}$$

by (5),

$$\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k} + \frac{2\pi}{k}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)}$$

by (6),

$$\pi(n) = 2 - \sum_{k=5}^{n} \csc\left(\frac{\pi}{k}\right) \sin\left[\frac{\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] \cos\left\{\frac{\pi[\Gamma(k) + 1]}{k}\right\}$$

by (7),

$$\pi(n) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}\right)\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)}$$

by (9). □

COROLLARY 1. *For* $x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 5}$, *then*

$$(10)\pi(x) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1},$$

$$(11)\pi(x) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} \frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right) - \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] + \cos\left[\frac{2\pi\Gamma(k)}{k} + \frac{2\pi}{k}\right]}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)},$$

$$(12)\pi(x) = 2 - \sum_{k=5}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} \csc\left(\frac{\pi}{k}\right) \sin\left[\frac{\pi\Gamma(k)}{k}\right] \cos\left\{\frac{\pi[\Gamma(k) + 1]}{k}\right\},$$

$$(13)\pi(x) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} \frac{\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}}\right)\left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}\right)}{2 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{k}\right)}.$$

Proof. Is obvious by the definition of floor function: $\lfloor x \rfloor := \max\{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid m \leq x\}$ and previous Theorem. □

THEOREM 2. (Legendre's Theorem) *There is a prime number*, p, *between* n^2 *and* $(n+1)^2$ *for every positive integer* n.

Proof. Part 1. Observe that, by use of (1), we encounter

$$(14)\pi((n+1)^2) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{(n+1)^2} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}$$

$$= \left[2 + \sum_{k=5}^{2n} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}\right] + \sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2+2n+1} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}$$

$$= \pi(2n) + \sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2+2n+1} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}.$$

and

$$(15)\pi(n^2) = 2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n^2} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1} = \left[2 + \sum_{k=5}^{n} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}\right] + \sum_{k=n+1}^{n^2} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}$$

$$= \pi(n) + \sum_{k=n+1}^{n^2} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i \Gamma(k)}{k}} - 1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}} - 1}.$$

Subtracting (15) to (14), it follows that

(16) $\pi((n+1)^2)-\pi(n^2)$

$$=\pi(2n)+\sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}-\pi(n)-\sum_{k=n+1}^{n^2}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}$$

$$=\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}-\sum_{k=n+1}^{n^2}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}$$

$$=\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}$$
$$-\sum_{k=2n+1}^{n^2}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}$$

$$=\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}.$$

By (5) we have the inequality

$$0=\min_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right)\leq\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\leq\max_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right)=1. \tag{17}$$

From (16) and (17), it follows that

$$\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\min_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right)-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}\min_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right)$$
$$\leq\ \pi((n+1)^2)-\pi(n^2)$$
$$\leq\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}\max_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right)$$
$$-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}\max_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}}\left(\frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i\Gamma(k)}{k}}-1}{e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{k}}-1}\right),$$

$$\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}0-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}0\leq\ \pi((n+1)^2)-\pi(n^2)$$
$$\leq\pi(2n)-\pi(n)+\sum_{k=n^2+1}^{n^2+2n+1}1-\sum_{k=n+1}^{2n}1,$$

$$\pi(2n) - \pi(n) \leq \pi((n+1)^2) - \pi(n^2) \leq \pi(2n) - \pi(n) + 2n + 1 - n,$$

$$\pi(2n) - \pi(n) \leq \pi((n+1)^2) - \pi(n^2) \leq \pi(2n) - \pi(n) + n + 1,$$

for $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 5}$.

Part 2. For $n = 1, \pi(2^2) - \pi(1^2) = \pi(4) - \pi(1) = 2 - 0 = 2 > 0$; for $n = 2, \pi(3^2) - \pi(2^2) = \pi(9) - \pi(4) = 4 - 2 = 2 > 0$; for $= 3, \pi(4^2) - \pi(3^2) = \pi(16) - \pi(9) = 6 - 4 = 2 > 0$, for $n = 4, \pi(5^2) - \pi(4^2) = \pi(25) - \pi(16) = 9 - 6 = 3 > 0$. This completesthe proof. □

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